

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1 and 11 have been amended and claims 2 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer for filing in a continuation application. Claims 4-9 have been withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 1, 3, and 11 are therefore currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed July 3, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,242,814 to Bassett, and rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,246,122 to Lin. It is noted that claims 1 and 11 have been amended, and claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. To the extent that the rejection remains applicable to the currently pending claims, the Applicant hereby traverses the rejection, as follows.

With regard to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the cited prior art does not teach or suggest at least the combination of a first power supply I/O cell which is connected to a first pad, the first pad corresponding to a first power supply I/O cell; a wire line connected to the first power supply I/O cell; and a second power supply I/O cell which is connected to a second pad and to the wire line to receive power supply from the first power supply I/O cell, the second pad corresponding to a second power supply I/O cell; wherein

the first pad is connected to an external pin and the second pad is not connected to an external pin, as claimed in claim 1.

For at least this reason, it is submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the cited prior art. As claim 1 is allowable, it is submitted that claim 3, which depends from allowable claim1, is likewise allowable.

For similar reasons to those discussed regarding claim 1, it is submitted that newly added claim 11 is allowable over the cited prior art.

With regard to each of the rejections under §103 in the Office Action, it is also respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not yet set forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness. The PTO has the burden under §103 to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. In re Fine, 5 U.S.P.Q.2nd 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Both the case law of the Federal Circuit and the PTO itself have made clear that where a modification must be made to the prior art to reject or invalidate a claim under §103, there must be a showing of proper motivation to do so. The mere fact that a prior art reference could arguably be modified to meet the claim is insufficient to establish obviousness. The PTO can satisfy this burden only by showing some objective teaching in the prior art or that knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art would lead that individual to combine the relevant teachings of the references. Id. In order to establish obviousness, there must be a suggestion or motivation in the reference to do so. See also In re Gordon, 221 U.S.P.Q. 1125, 1127 (Fed. Cir. 1984) (prior art could not be turned upside down without motivation to do so); In re Rouffet, 149 F.3d 1350 (Fed. Cir. 1998); In re Dembiczak, 175 F.3d 994 (Fed. Cir. 1999); In re Lee, 277 F.3d 1338 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

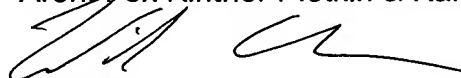
In the Office Action, the Examiner merely states that the present invention is obvious in light of the cited references. See, e.g., Office Action at pages 2-4. This is an insufficient showing of motivation.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing attorney docket number 100353-00096.**

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time (one month)